



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

MODERN ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY—Volume I—The P-Q-R-S-T-U Complex. Eugene Lepeschkin, M.D., Assistant Professor of Experimental Medicine. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Md., 1951. 598 pages, \$12.00.

In recent years so many new books on the electrocardiogram have appeared that another might appear to be repetitious and superfluous. Actually, this book is unique among modern text books on the electrocardiogram and will be of tremendous value to those who wish detailed and fundamental knowledge on this subject.

This first of two volumes covers the literature from 1934 until 1950 on the origin and form of the electrocardiogram and includes almost 10,000 references. The author has attempted to review and digest this tremendous body of information and at the same time inject his own views in controversial matters. In the opinion of the reviewer, he has been most successful in this attempt and has achieved his purpose of presenting a "comprehensive but concise summary of the progress of electrocardiography since 1933."

The nature of the book is such that it will be of greatest value to those who have some background of information and training in electrocardiography and who wish to gain further knowledge. As a reference text, it cannot be equalled by any modern publication in English, and should be included in the library of every investigator and practicing physician interested in the electrocardiogram.

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MEDICAL MILESTONES. Henry J. L. Marriott, M.D., The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, 1952. 293 pages, \$3.50.

This is a readable single volume interpretation of the major medical advances of the past generation. It differs from much medical reporting in that it is neither too sensational nor hysterical. It calls attention to the drawbacks in some of the "miracles" as well as their accomplishments: for example, more time is spent in debunking the anti-histaminics as "cold cures" than in telling of their full uses. There is a glossary of key technical words placed in attractive footnotes whenever such words are introduced.

The reviewer finds minor faults: Chapter five uses the proprietary term Chloromycetin throughout—without mention of the USP term chloramphenicol. In the table of contents terramycin is not mentioned although it is discussed equally with aureomycin in chapter seven. And although the author deplors "medical shrapnel" in the treatment of anemia, he condones it in the treatment of urinary infections.

On the whole, this book is a good, solid, well-balanced summary which the doctor may recommend to his patients and friends who desire to drink more deeply of the Pierian spring of medical knowledge. For that matter, the doctor himself may well read it to advantage!

RHEUMATIC DISEASES—Based on the Proceedings of the Seventh International Congress on Rheumatic Diseases. Prepared by the Committee on Publications of the American Rheumatism Association, Charles H. Slocumb, M.D., Chairman. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1952. 449 pages, \$12.00.

The title "Rheumatic Diseases" is deceiving, for this volume is little more than the collected papers of the Seventh International Congress on Rheumatic Diseases, held in May, 1949. It is not a textbook of rheumatology, although advertisements (J.A.M.A. February 23, 1952) suggest that it would serve this purpose. The book is divided into chapters, but none of the sections is complete, although the discussion of fibrositis and psychogenic rheumatism is relatively lengthy. The section on the effect of cortisone and ACTH on rheumatoid arthritis and rheumatic fever by Hench et al is essentially the same material presented a month after the initial announcement of their work in April, 1949. Although reportedly brought up to date, there are only a few 1950 references in the bibliography and none after that year. However, there are authoritative papers on many phases of arthritis of importance primarily to rheumatologists, but also of interest to internists, physiatrists, orthopedists, pathologists and investigative workers in this field. The papers are too numerous to mention, but perusal of the table of contents would yield at least several articles of interest to most physicians.

There is a trend now toward publishing proceedings of meetings and freeing periodicals for more current publications. While this might be a worthwhile move, these collected papers presenting timely articles should not take three years to get into print if they are to retain much of their value. Further, they should be presented as proceedings or collected papers and not be confused with texts or well-rounded presentations of the material—a near impossibility with numerous contributors, despite careful editing.

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DISEASES OF THE NOSE, THROAT AND EAR—A Handbook for Students and Practitioners—Fifth Edition—I. Simson Hall, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.C.S.E., Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1952. 463 pages, 8 colored plates, \$4.00.

This volume is designed to meet the needs of the busy practitioner and the student.

The preface to the 5th edition written by the author takes up only half of a small page but is adequate. It informs one that this edition contains no radical change in size; but changes in treatment which have been proved and accepted and been introduced where appropriate, and that controversial matters have been avoided.

For those who are not acquainted with the preceding editions, this volume, although primarily set up for the medical student and the general practitioner, is a worthwhile addition to the otolaryngologist's library.